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LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the intention of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, to allow the Republic of Albania to open a representative office in that Serbian province. If ever taken, the intended decision would further encourage ethnic Albanian separatism, serve to promote the idea of Greater Albania and destabilize the region.

In that context, let me recall the continued destructive activities of the Republic of Albania towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in the Balkans, particularly in Kosovo and Metohija, which of late have intensified.

The Republic of Albania is the only country in the world and the only Member State of the United Nations that has officially recognized and actively supported the illegal separatist creation of the so-called Republic of Kosovo, proclaimed in the sovereign territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and allowed it to open a "representative" office in Tirana. These acts stand in sharp contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic documents and principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Plagued by chaos and lawlessness, the Republic of Albania "exported" its instability into Kosovo and Metohija, encouraging its ethnic Albanian residents to be disloyal to the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the State in which they live. The Republic of Albania took active part in creating and arming the terrorist/separatist "Kosovo Liberation Army" ("KLA") and turned a large part of its territory into a "KLA" boot camp and logistic base in support of its campaign of terror aimed at seceding Kosovo and Metohija from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Kosovo and Metohija is an integral and inalienable part of the sovereign territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It status is based on relevant international peace treaties made this century, the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and on international law and has been expressly confirmed in Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999. Bearing

that in mind, I would like to point out that representative offices of foreign States and/or international organizations may be opened in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia only with the agreement and approval of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The international civil presence in Kosovo and Metohija and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations have no right to violate in any way the basic principle of international law and international relations relative to the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and may not represent or substitute sovereign power.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.